

Mr. BROWNBAC. How much?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Twenty-six seconds now.

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, CBO, in January of 1999, said that the 2-year forecast showed a total budget surplus of \$2.3 trillion. The surplus announced this year is \$5.6 trillion. In that 2-year time period, they more than doubled the size of it. What we are saying is, if that happens again, as is likely, let us vote on a bigger tax cut.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, the pending amendment is not germane. Therefore, I raise a point of order that the amendment violates section 305(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

I yield back the remainder of our time on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, under section 904 of the Budget Act, I move to waive section 305 of the Budget Act for the consideration of this amendment and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Minnesota. We only have 10 minutes remaining, I advise the Senator—actually less than that. We have agreed to provide the other time to the Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. WELLSTONE. That is fine.

Mr. GREGG. Will the Senator from North Dakota yield for a question?

Mr. CONRAD. No, the Senator from North Dakota can't yield at this point for a question because we are rapidly running out of time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

AMENDMENT NO. 269

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 269.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Minnesota [Mr. WELLSTONE], for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. REID, proposes an amendment numbered 269.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To increase discretionary funding for veterans medical care by \$1.718 billion in 2002 and each year thereafter to ensure that veterans have access to quality medical care)

On page 2, line 17, increase the amount by \$1,546,000,000.

On page 2, line 18, increase the amount by \$1,689,000,000.

On page 3, line 1, increase the amount by \$1,703,000,000.

On page 3, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,709,000,000.

On page 3, line 3, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 3, line 4, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 3, line 5, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 3, line 6, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 3, line 7, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 3, line 8, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 3, line 13, decrease the amount by \$1,546,000,000.

On page 3, line 14, decrease the amount by \$1,689,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, decrease the amount by \$1,703,000,000.

On page 3, line 16, decrease the amount by \$1,709,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, decrease the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 3, line 18, decrease the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, decrease the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 3, line 20, decrease the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, decrease the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 3, line 22, decrease the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 36, line 6, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 36, line 7, increase the amount by \$1,546,000,000.

On page 36, line 10, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 36, line 11, increase the amount by \$1,689,000,000.

On page 36, line 14, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 36, line 15, increase the amount by \$1,703,000,000.

On page 36, line 18, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 36, line 19, increase the amount by \$1,709,000,000.

On page 36, line 22, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 36, line 23, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 37, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 37, line 3, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 37, line 6, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 37, line 7, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 37, line 10, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 37, line 11, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 37, line 14, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 37, line 15, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 37, line 18, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 37, line 19, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 43, line 15, decrease the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 43, line 16, decrease the amount by \$1,546,000,000.

On page 48, line 8, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 48, line 9, increase the amount by \$1,546,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 5, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 7, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 8, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 9, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 10, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 11, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 17, increase the amount by \$1,689,000,000.

On page 4, line 18, increase the amount by \$1,703,000,000.

On page 4, line 19, increase the amount by \$1,709,000,000.

On page 4, line 20, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 21, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 22, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 23, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 5, line 1, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 5, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I introduce this amendment on behalf of myself and Senators JOHNSON, BINGAMAN, DORGAN, MURRAY, MIKULSKI, KERRY, FEINGOLD, and LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent that Senators DURBIN and DASCHLE be included as original cosponsors as well as Senator HARRY REID.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, the problem with the President's budget request and this budget resolution is it provides a \$1 billion increase over fiscal year 2001 for all of the VA discretionary programs. That is no way to say thank you to veterans. Secretary Principi, who is a great Secretary, testified before the veterans committee last month. I believe he will be a great advocate for veterans, but he had a tough time with the following question: How does a \$1 billion increase over fiscal year 2001 do the job for America's veterans when we are going to see a \$900 million increase this year in medical inflation alone?

Then if we get beyond the \$900 million and add to that our commitment to treating people with hepatitis C, our commitment to emergency medical services for veterans who have no coverage, our commitment to the millennium program for older veterans, our commitment to mental health services for veterans, we get way above \$1 billion.

Mr. President, there are huge gaps in the veterans health care system. We can do much better. This amendment would increase the veterans health care budget, contained in this budget resolution, by \$1.7 billion annually. The independent budget, which was produced by Amvets, VFW, DAV, the Disabled American Veterans, and Paralyzed Veterans, talked about \$2.6 billion. This amendment gets us to that level.